

Listing of the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A mattress for a bed having a frame for supporting the mattress and siderails, including:

a non-puncture resistant cover having an interior surface; and

a core disposed adjacent the interior surface including a body defining a plurality of mounting locations, each mounting location including an enclosure, the core further including a plurality of self-sealing gas containers respectively disposed within the plurality of enclosures.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein each enclosure provides a substantially cylindrical space for receiving a respective container.

4. (Original) The mattress of claim 1, wherein the body is formed of substantially non-stretchable material.

5. (Original) The mattress of claim 4, wherein the substantially non-stretchable material is one of substantially non-stretchable fabric and substantially non-stretchable film.

6. (Original) The mattress of claim 1, wherein the body is formed of woven nylon twill.

7. (Original) The mattress of claim 1, wherein the cover defines an interior space bounded by the interior surface, the core being disposed substantially within the interior space.

8. (Original) The mattress of claim 1, wherein the containers are substantially cylindrical.

9. (Original) The mattress of claim 1, wherein the body includes an upper layer and a lower layer, the upper and lower layers being connected at a plurality of seams, thereby forming substantially cylindrical spaces for receiving the plurality of containers.

~~10.~~ (Original) The mattress of claim 9 wherein the plurality of seams are substantially parallel to one another.

~~11.~~ (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1 wherein the containers are connected to a gas source.

~~12.~~ (Original) The mattress of claim 1 wherein the cover includes a sleep surface opposite the interior surface.

~~13.~~ (Original) The mattress of claim 1 wherein the siderails have a minimum height above a sleep surface of the cover, and the core has a height, substantially all of the core height being occupied by the plurality of containers.

14. (Original) The mattress of claim 1 wherein one of the containers is pressurized to a first pressure and another of the containers is pressurized to a second pressure that is different from the first pressure.

~~15.~~ (Previously Presented) A mattress for a bed having a frame for supporting the mattress and siderails, including:

a non-puncture resistant cover having an interior surface; and
a core disposed adjacent the interior surface including a plurality of enclosures, each enclosure including a self-sealing lining and each enclosure being affixed to an adjacent enclosure.

~~16.~~ (Original) The mattress of claim 15 wherein each enclosure defines a substantially cylindrical space.

~~17.~~ (Currently Amended) The mattress of claim 15 A mattress for a bed having a frame for supporting the mattress and siderails, including:

a non-puncture resistant cover having an interior surface; and
a core disposed adjacent the interior surface including a plurality of enclosures, each enclosure including a self-sealing lining and each enclosure being affixed to

an adjacent enclosure, wherein the plurality of enclosures are formed of substantially non-stretchable material.

18. (Original) The mattress of claim 17 wherein the substantially non-stretchable material is one of substantially non-stretchable fabric and substantially non-stretchable film.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The mattress of claim 15 A mattress for a bed having a frame for supporting the mattress and siderails, including:~~

a non-puncture resistant cover having an interior surface; and

a core disposed adjacent the interior surface including a plurality of enclosures, each enclosure including a self-sealing lining and each enclosure being affixed to an adjacent enclosure, wherein the plurality of enclosures are formed of woven nylon twill.

20. (Original) The mattress of claim 15 wherein the cover defines an interior space bounded by the interior surface, the core being disposed substantially within the interior space.

21. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 15 wherein the core includes an upper layer and a lower layer, the upper and lower layers being connected at a plurality of seams, thereby forming the plurality of enclosures.

22. (Original) The mattress of claim 21 wherein the plurality of seams are substantially parallel to one another.

23. (Original) The mattress of claim 15 wherein the plurality of enclosures are connected to a gas source, the gas source pressurizing the enclosures with a gas.

24. (Original) The mattress of claim 23 wherein one of the plurality of enclosures is pressurized to a first pressure and another of the plurality of enclosures is pressurized to a second pressure that is different from the first pressure.

25. (Original) The mattress of claim 15 wherein the cover includes a sleep surface opposite the interior surface.

26. (Original) The mattress of claim 25 wherein the siderails have a minimum height above the cover sleep surface, thereby defining a maximum height of the core, substantially all of the maximum core height being occupied by the plurality of enclosures.

27. (Previously Presented) A mattress, including:

means for defining a core including a plurality of sealed enclosures containing a gas, each enclosure being affixed to an adjacent enclosure; and

means for automatically re-sealing a puncture in any of the plurality of enclosures to prevent the gas from being released.

28. (Previously Presented) A patient support including:

a frame,

a siderail connected to the frame, and

a mattress supported by the frame including a non-puncture resistant cover having an interior surface; and a core disposed adjacent the interior surface including a plurality of enclosures housing a respective plurality of containers, each container including a self-sealing lining.

29. (Previously Presented) The patient support of claim 28 wherein each enclosure defines a substantially cylindrical space.

30. (Previously Presented) The patient support of claim 28 wherein the plurality of enclosures are formed of substantially non-stretchable material.

31. (Previously Presented) The patient support of claim 30 wherein the substantially non-stretchable material is one of substantially non-stretchable fabric and substantially non-stretchable film.

32. (Previously Presented) The patient support of claim 28 wherein the plurality of enclosures are formed of woven nylon twill.

33. (Previously Presented) The patient support of claim 28 wherein the cover defines an interior space bounded by the interior surface, the core being disposed substantially within the interior space.

34. (Previously Presented) The patient support of claim 28 wherein the core includes an upper layer and a lower layer, the upper and lower layers being connected at a plurality of seams, thereby forming the plurality of enclosures.

35. (Previously Presented) The patient support of claim 34 wherein the plurality of seams are substantially parallel to one another.

36. (Previously Presented) The patient support of claim 28 wherein the plurality of enclosures are connected to a gas source, the gas source pressurizing the enclosures with a gas.

37. (Previously Presented) The patient support of claim 36 wherein one of the plurality of enclosures is pressurized to a first pressure and another of the plurality of enclosures is pressurized to a second pressure that is different from the first pressure.

38. (Previously Presented) The patient support of claim 28 wherein the cover includes a sleep surface opposite the interior surface and the core is positioned on an upper surface of the frame.

39. (Previously Presented) The patient support of claim 38 wherein the siderail has a minimum height above the cover sleep surface, thereby defining a maximum height of the core relative to the upper surface of the frame, substantially all of the maximum core height being occupied by the plurality of enclosures.

40. (New) The mattress of claim 17 wherein each enclosure defines a substantially cylindrical space.

41. (New) The mattress of claim 17 wherein the cover defines an interior space bounded by the interior surface, the core being disposed substantially within the interior space.

42. (New) The mattress of claim 17 wherein the core includes an upper layer and a lower layer, the upper and lower layers being connected at a plurality of seams, thereby forming the plurality of enclosures.

43. (New) The mattress of claim 42 wherein the plurality of seams are substantially parallel to one another.

44. (New) The mattress of claim 17 wherein the plurality of enclosures are connected to a gas source, the gas source pressurizing the enclosures with a gas.

45. (New) The mattress of claim 44 wherein one of the plurality of enclosures is pressurized to a first pressure and another of the plurality of enclosures is pressurized to a second pressure that is different from the first pressure.

46. (New) The mattress of claim 17 wherein the cover includes a sleep surface opposite the interior surface.

47. (New) The mattress of claim 46 wherein the siderails have a minimum height above the cover sleep surface, thereby defining a maximum height of the core, substantially all of the maximum core height being occupied by the plurality of enclosures.

48. (New) The mattress of claim 19 wherein each enclosure defines a substantially cylindrical space.

49. (New) The mattress of claim 19 wherein the cover defines an interior space bounded by the interior surface, the core being disposed substantially within the interior space.

50. (New) The mattress of claim 19 wherein the core includes an upper layer and a lower layer, the upper and lower layers being connected at a plurality of seams, thereby forming the plurality of enclosures.

51. (New) The mattress of claim 50 wherein the plurality of seams are substantially parallel to one another.

52. (New) The mattress of claim 19 wherein the plurality of enclosures are connected to a gas source, the gas source pressurizing the enclosures with a gas.

53. (New) The mattress of claim 52 wherein one of the plurality of enclosures is pressurized to a first pressure and another of the plurality of enclosures is pressurized to a second pressure that is different from the first pressure.

54. (New) The mattress of claim 19 wherein the cover includes a sleep surface opposite the interior surface.

55. (New) The mattress of claim 54 wherein the siderails have a minimum height above the cover sleep surface, thereby defining a maximum height of the core, substantially all of the maximum core height being occupied by the plurality of enclosures.

56. (New) A mattress for a bed having a frame for supporting the mattress and siderails, including:

a non-puncture resistant, substantially non-cushioning member having an interior surface; and

a core disposed adjacent the interior surface of the substantially non-cushioning member, the core including a plurality of self-sealing gas containers and a body, the body including a plurality of enclosures, the plurality of self-sealing gas containers respectively disposed within the plurality of enclosures.

57. (New) The mattress of claim 56 wherein the substantially non-cushioning member includes an impermeable material.

58. (New) The mattress of claim 56 wherein each enclosure provides a substantially cylindrical space for receiving a respective container.

59. (New) The mattress of claim 56 wherein the body is formed of substantially non-stretchable material.

60. (New) The mattress of claim 59 wherein the substantially non-stretchable material is one of substantially non-stretchable fabric and substantially non-stretchable film.

61. (New) The mattress of claim 56 wherein the body is formed of woven nylon twill.

62. (New) The mattress of claim 56 wherein the substantially non-cushioning member defines an interior space bounded by the interior surface, the core being disposed substantially within the interior space.

63. (New) The mattress of claim 56 wherein the containers are substantially cylindrical.

64. (New) The mattress of claim 56 wherein the containers are connected to a gas source.

65. (New) The mattress of claim 56 wherein the substantially non-cushioning member includes a sleep surface opposite the interior surface.

66. (New) The mattress of claim 56 wherein one of the containers is pressurized to a first pressure and another of the containers is pressurized to a second pressure that is different from the first pressure.

67. (New) A mattress for a bed having a frame for supporting the mattress and siderails, including:

a non-puncture resistant, substantially non-cushioning member having an interior surface; and

a core disposed adjacent the interior surface including a plurality of enclosures, each enclosure including a self-sealing lining and each enclosure being affixed to an adjacent enclosure.

68. (New) The mattress of claim 67 wherein the substantially non-cushioning member includes an impermeable material.

69. (New) The mattress of claim 67 wherein the substantially non-cushioning member defines an interior space bounded by the interior surface, the core being disposed substantially within the interior space.

70. (New) The mattress of claim 67 wherein the core is connected to a gas source.

71. (New) The mattress of claim 67 wherein the substantially non-cushioning member includes a sleep surface opposite the interior surface.

72. (New) The mattress of claim 67 wherein one of the enclosures is pressurized to a first pressure and another of the enclosures is pressurized to a second pressure that is different from the first pressure.

73. (New) A patient support including:

a frame;

a siderail connected to the frame; and

a mattress supported by the frame, the mattress including:

a first member defining an interior region and having a top surface and a first height, the top surface including a non-puncture resistant portion; and

a core disposed within the first member adjacent the top surface, the core including a plurality of self-sealing inflatable members, each of the inflatable members configured to be inflated with a fluid, wherein a height of the core is substantially equal to the first interior height when the plurality of inflatable members are inflated with the fluid.

74. (New) The patient support of claim 73 wherein the first member of the mattress includes a top cover and a bottom cover, the top cover and the bottom cover being connected together to define the interior region.

75. (New) The patient support of claim 73 wherein the non-puncture resistant portion is substantially non-cushioning.

76. (New) The patient support of claim 73 wherein the core of the mattress includes a body including a plurality of enclosures.

77. (New) The patient support of claim 76 wherein the plurality of inflatable members are gas containers respectively disposed within the plurality of enclosures.

78. (New) The patient support of claim 76 wherein each of the plurality of enclosures includes a self-sealing lining to form the plurality of inflatable members.
